

CONGRATS TO ...

Montana-born filmmakers **Andrew and Alex Smith**, whose movie, “Winter in the Blood,” won the Grand Prize at the Montreal First Peoples Festival. The film, starring **Chaske Spencer** (who grew up on reservations in Montana and Idaho), is based on the novel of the same name by another Montanan – Native writer James Welch. It won “for bringing to the screen, boldly and faithfully, a major work marking the flowering of contemporary Amerindian literature,” said festival organizer André Dudemaine during an awards ceremony Aug. 4. At the movie’s final festival screening later that day, the Smith brothers acknowledged Welch as a family friend and writing mentor and paid poignant tribute to him on the 10th anniversary of his death. “We knew James Welch growing up, he was a friend and a mentor,” said Alex Smith in introducing the film to the Montreal audience. “And today is actually, in a beautiful way, 10 years since we lost Jim. Today. And this film is about how we stay connected to those we lose. So I just wanted to just reach out to Jim. I’m glad it all happens here.”

– From *Indian Country Today*, Aug. 5

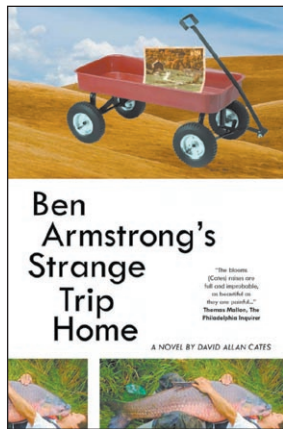
MAPS Media Institute in Hamilton, which received a \$5,000 grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on the eve of next year’s 10th anniversary. MAPS offers free after-school courses in design, filmmaking and music to students, promoting creativity, innovation and critical thinking while introducing them to career opportunities in the digital media field. Peter Rosten, a former Hollywood director who started the program, says student-made short films and PSAs earned three nominations from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences’ Northwest Chapter this year. “Clearly, Montana can and does compete on the national stage,” Rosten told *Variety* magazine. “Ultimately, it’s a reflection on what 12- to 17-year-old rural kids can do given the right setting, tools and people to lead them.”



Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre dancers Ashley Hagler and Patric Palkens
(Photo by Robin P. Murray)

as well as performed in Salzburg and Innsbruck, Austria, Munich and Rome. RMBT’s “Montana,” featuring contemporary ballet and choreography inspired by the company’s home state, premiered during four gala concerts in Salzburg and Munich. In addition to Carey and Carreno, company members include **Louise Hickey Cadiff, Jenifer Kerber, Hayden Murray, Patric Palkens, Ashley Hagler, Nathaniel Foster, Katy Clay, Laurel Aytes, Molly** and **Shaelyn Rowe, Maddie Sager, Anna Horejsi** and **Evelyn Gray**.

Carolyn Pitman, former executive director of Whitefish Theatre Company (WTC), who received the 2013 Distinguished Merit Award from the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). The award is given annually to individuals and organizations in recognition of contributions made to promote and develop the highest standards for community theatre. Pitman, who retired in January after 34 years with WTC, is described as the company’s “heart and soul, and its compass.” She’s credited with transforming “an unknown community theatre into a distinguished premier cultural arts center for rural northwestern Montana.” Over the years, WTC has expanded from two annual productions, a budget of \$10,000, and no full-time employees, to an organization that produces nine theatre productions and six music events, with a budget of over \$500,000, nine employees, well over 500 volunteers, and yearly education outreach to over 2,000 students and 400 senior citizens. AACT also praises Pitman’s dedication, professionalism, teamwork and ability to mentor others with “unmatched thoughtfulness, patience, and unwavering support.”



Ben Armstrong’s Strange Trip Home by David Allan Cates

Missoula author **David Allan Cates**, whose novel, *Ben Armstrong’s Strange Trip Home*, won the gold medal for Best Regional Fiction, Midwest, in the 2013 Independent Publisher Book Awards. The awards were handed out May 29 at a ceremony in New York City. Almost 2,500 independent authors and publishers competed in the contest, and 382 medals were awarded in fiction and nonfiction categories. Cates’s novel, set in Wisconsin, was self-released by the author. “To

get this kind of award makes me feel confirmed in my judgment that the book had to get out there,” Cates told the *Billings Gazette*. Cates is the author of three previous novels, *Hunger In America*, a *New York Times* Notable Book, *X Out Of Wonderland* and *Freeman Walker*, both Montana Book Award Honor Books.



Co-director Andrew Smith (center) and Chaske Spencer (right) on the set of “Winter in the Blood” in 2011.

(Photo by Donnie Sexton, Montana Office of Tourism)

The Lil’ Smokies, a Missoula-based string band that won the 2013 Band Competition at the Northwest String Summit at Horning’s Hide-out in North Plains, OR. According to jambands.com, the band “turned heads on the Main Stage, proving their salt with a passionate, innovative set with chops to spare.”

Billings baritone **Doug Nagel**, who performed a solo recital at Xuchang University in Hunan Province, China, after a month spent teaching there. The professor of voice at Montana State University Billings performed with three accompanists before an audience of 500 people in a 300-seat hall. “The kids were incredibly excited,” said Nagel said in a story that appeared in *The Billings Outpost*. “They treated me like a rock star, like I was Justin Bieber. I signed autographs for over an hour after the performance.”

– From *The Billings Outpost*, July 4

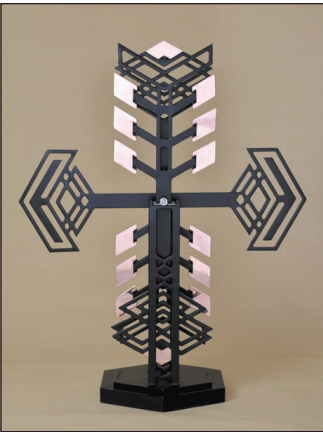
Kalispell guitarist **Steve Eckels**, who was a guest performer at the Chet Atkins Appreciation Society Conference, July 10-13 in Nashville, TN. Eckels, the guitar instructor for Flathead High School and Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, specializes in instrumental guitar arrangements of opera arias and the music of Benny Goodman, Billy Holiday, Fat’s Waller and Django Reinhardt, along with original compositions. He’s the author of 15 guitar books for Mel Bay Publications.

Monte Yellow Bird Sr., known as Black Pinto Horse, who took first place in the drawing category at this year’s American Indian Market at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis with his dogwood-inspired ledger titled “Before the Dog Days.” He also took third place in the drawing category with “Watch the Birdie,” which took first place at the Gene Autry Museum’s Indian Art Market in Los Angeles last November. Black Pinto Horse was interviewed by the National Endowment for the Arts in regards to his inspirational residency with the Holter Museum of Art’s Cultural Crossroads program (read the online article at www.nea.gov); was a guest artist July 15-21 at the Colter Bay Visitors Center in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming; and his traveling exhibit, “The Poor Boy and the Mud Pony, An Arikara Perspective,” which introduces the Poor Boy stories told by both the Pawnees and the Arikaras, was on display through July 15 at the Heritage Center in Devils Lake, ND. His wife, **Emily Yellow Bird**, took first place in the mixed media division at the Pekin Days Art Show, organized by the Nelson County Arts Council and held June 27-30 in Pekin, ND. Her watercolor with paper cutting is titled “Collector of All Things Shiny.”

The two artists live in Great Falls.



“Before the Dog Days” by Monte Yellow Bird Sr.



“Indian Paintbrush” by Charles Ringer

Joliet artist **Charles Ringer**, who has been named Honored Artist at the 2013 Buffalo Bill Art Show and Sale, Sept. 20 in Cody, WY. Ringer has titled his piece for the auction “Indian Paintbrush”; the kinetic sculpture, 48 inches tall, is constructed from steel and polished copper. Ringer will give a lecture that day at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West covering his 45 years of making sculpture in Montana.

Sally Rogers Angove, a founding member of Upper Missouri Artists Gallery in Helena, and her grandson, **Sky Angove**, who each submitted six works of art to the Rochester Contemporary Art Center’s (RoCo) annual “international small art phenomenon,” June 1-July 14 in Rochester, NY. Angove was born in the nearby town of Brockport, NY, and decided this would be a fun way to support art in the state of her birth. Her media of choice was watercolor while Sky’s was ink drawings with a message. As of June 6, four of each artist’s six works had sold; their submissions are the only two entries from Montana.

Continued on next page



3

Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trail, Charlo, MT 59824; or email: writeus@livelytimes.com.

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it’s at least 150 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) or file size of over 300kb (no more than 2mb, please).

Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for *State of the Arts*



4

The doctor as poet can heal body and spirit

Metaphors may seem out of place in the jargon-filled medical field, but the careful use of language could change a patient's perception of suffering.

Marjorie Evasco, a Palanca awardee, conducted research on the clinical practices of five Filipino doctors and found that combining compassion and creativity alleviated suffering and helped patients recover spiritually. Many medical schools are beginning to incorporate the language of empathy into their curricula.

For the complete story go to newsinfo.inquirer.net.

— From the *Inquirer News*, March 18

CONGRATS TO ...

Glass artist and teacher **Thomas Marinkovich** of Box Elder, who was honored April 26 and inducted into the Hall of Fame during the second annual Night of Stars awards ceremony, hosted by The University of Montana Western Education Department and the UM Western Foundation to honor distinguished alumni and students. Marinkovich attended Montana Western from 1975-'78, and started the college's rural art program. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in education with an emphasis in art education from Montana State University-Northern in Havre. Marinkovich worked in the Office of Public Instruction in Helena as the Indian Education/Art Consultant from 1992-'97. He has taught art in the Box Elder Public Schools since 1978 and been the art instructor for Stone Child College in Box Elder since 1986. He's also taught art workshops at the Montana Teachers Convention and taught drawing and graphics at Northern Montana College (now MSU-Northern).

TRANSITIONS

Welcome to **Darren Rich**, the new executive director of the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale (BSO&C). Rich replaces Sandra Culhane, who left in April after nearly eight years with the BSO&C to take the position as executive director with the Boise Philharmonic. Rich earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan. He recently completed a prestigious fellowship with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts where he worked in the areas of orchestra administration, development and marketing. Rich brings significant experience in fundraising to the Billings Symphony. He was part of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's corporate giving team, which raised between \$2 million and \$3 million annually. Before being selected as a fellow at the Kennedy Center, he was director of development at the Berkeley Symphony, where he led a successful comprehensive development program, increasing fundraising totals by 11%. Rich said he was attracted by the programs of the orchestra and the Alberta Bair Theater and drawn to the community's energy and enthusiasm. "With such wonderful people, a strong economy, and easy access to the outdoors, I could picture my wife and I really enjoying life in Billings," said Rich. He hopes to build on the organization's past success and make it widely recognized as the premier orchestra and chorale in the state and greater region. Music director Anne Harrigan is impressed with Rich's experience and enthusiasm and looks forward to working with him. "Darren has a wonderful combination of passion for music and what orchestras can do for communities and families," she said. "I look forward to working together as we build a great future."



Darren Rich

So long and best wishes to **Joel Jahnke**, who retires Aug. 31 after "bringing the Bard to the Big Sky for more than 36 years," and his wife, **Kathy Jahnke**, who has stepped down from her role as the director of community relations for the troupe and is now working at

the Ellen Theatre in Bozeman. Joel Jahnke, the director of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, arrived at MSU in 1976 from Northern State College in South Dakota when the company – an outreach program of the College of Arts and Architecture at MSU – was only three years old. "I came here as a designer – that was my training – set, costume, tech, and props. Four years later they appointed me artistic director and I've been doing it ever since," he told MSU's *Mountains and Minds* magazine. The company went from performing in 22 communities when he arrived to offering 75 performances in 59 communities last summer. Unlike other Shakespearean touring companies, Montana's company covers thousands of miles in a season – from Bozeman, where the company is headquartered on MSU's campus, to small towns across Montana, to eastern Washington, North Dakota, and parts of Wyoming. In addition to conceiving and directing the touring plays each summer, Jahnke oversaw the Shakespeare in the Schools program that brings productions to middle and high schools from Labor Day to mid-December as well as MONTANA SHAKES!, the elementary school program, in the spring. The troupe also does all its own fundraising, including grant applications and outreach to donors. Arlynn Fishbaugh, executive director of the Montana Arts Council, credits both Joel and Kathy with "developing strong relationships with the local communities." She told *Mountains and Minds*: "Certainly in terms of the way it does its work and the way it works in communities, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks is enormously effective ... While there may be other touring companies, there are none I'm aware of that has the same saturation into rural America."



Joel Jahnke (Photo by Kelly Gorham)

— from *Mountains and Minds*, Spring 2013
(www.montana.edu/mountainsandminds)

So long and best wishes to members of the **Vigilante Theatre Company**, who took their final bow in July when co-founders **Rhonda Smith** and **John Hosking**, joined by **Todd Hoberecht** and his wife, **Karynn Hoberecht**, performed "Who Shot the Sheriff?" in Dillon and Challis, ID. The original play by Bruce Hurlbut was written for the troupe in 1996. Seeing a need for a kind of theatre that spoke directly to the people of the Northwest, the Vigilante Players, Inc. was founded by Hosking and Smith at Western Montana College in Dillon in 1981. At the invitation of the Department of Media and Theatre Arts at Montana State University, the players came to Bozeman in 1983. During the past 20 years, the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture has been the administrative home for the Vigilante Theatre. The company was comprised of four actors and a booking manager, and would hire a director, writers and costumers to develop one original show a year that would tour over "one-fifth of the United States" including Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and the Dakotas. According to the company's website, their goal was "to bring professional performances to Montanans of all ages by creating original works written by award-winning Montana playwrights and performed by talented Montana actors." They've succeeded for more than 30 years. "It's been a great run," Hosking says.

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The friends, family and students of **Esther England**. The singer, who taught generations of students

during her 36-year career at The University of Montana, died July 6. England arrived at UM to study animal behavior but went on to graduate with high honors in music. She was offered a soloist contract with the Metropolitan Opera but accepted a Fulbright Scholarship instead, and studied opera at the Musikhochschule München in Germany while taking advanced language training at the Goethe Institute. She returned to Montana in 1969 to accept a one-year contract to teach voice at UM. "She was one of the great teachers. She was really inspirational," College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean Stephen Kalm told the *Missoulian*. Actor J.K. Simmons, who studied at UM in the 1970s, echoed that sentiment: "She had a big effect on several generations of singers that came through the university. She had a well-rounded sense of musicianship, artistry, and a respect for what we were trying to do, and a nice dose of common sense. She was a great lady." After an auto accident stole her voice, England used the settlement to establish a scholarship fund, which has since evolved into two endowments: the Esther England Excellence in Voice Scholarship and the Esther England Vocal Enrichment Fund, which pays for one-time expenses such as student travel to auditions and bringing guest musicians to campus. "She was a teacher we all aspire to be,"



Esther England (Photo by Tom Bauer/Missoulian)

said Maxine Ramey, director of the School of Music. "She had enough love to go around, ensuring each felt special enough to have the confidence to go on to be great opera singers, great teachers and most importantly, great people."

— From the *Missoulian*, July 8

The friends and family of **Ken Edwards**. The potter, who died Jan. 9 of multiple complications due to a fall from his roof, was credited by the Lewistown Art Center with "literally putting Lewistown on the map with his amazing pottery." He graduated from high school in Seattle in 1968, earned a welding certificate and studied glass blowing, ceramics and kiln building while attending the University of Puget Sound. Upon returning to Lewistown, he built his own studio. From the 1970s through the '90s, he worked with his mother, artist Ethel Ann Edwards, whose surface designs graced his classically shaped ceramics. According to the center's newsletter, "As a master potter and gifted teacher, Ken's legacy lives on through those he taught and those who have collected his works." He donated his tools, wheels, kilns, pug mill and clay to the center and to Montana State University Billings.

The family and friends of former C.M. Russell Museum director **Anne Morand**. She died July 16 in Oklahoma City after battling a brain aneurysm for several weeks; she was 61. Morand had worked at the museum from January 2004 through February 2010, and held positions as chief curator, associate director for programs and chief executive officer. She secured support and funding for the "The Bison: American Icon, Heart of Plains Indian Culture," oversaw the

opening of the exhibit in 2008 and helped implement a traveling version of the exhibition through the Mid-America Arts Alliance. She also worked to launch Chautauqua performances at the museum, expanded educational programs, conducted docent training, promoted the museum's collections and developed programs for families. "Anne encouraged learning and the betterment of everyone, and served as mentor to many in her museum family," said Michael Duchemin, executive director of the Russell, in the *Great Falls Tribune*. "Her gracious philosophy for the C.M. Russell Museum was to make it available and inviting to everyone." Morand left in 2010 to become curator of art with the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. "Anne Morand will be remembered with great fondness by the museum, the Great Falls community, and the world of American Western art and history," Duchemin wrote. The museum has established the Anne Morand Memorial Fund for Art and Education in her honor.

— From the *Great Falls Tribune*, July 19

The family and friends of Billings arts supporter **Vera Mae Reineking**. She died June 14 at home in Billings; she was 88. A native of Iowa, she graduated from Allen School of Nursing in Waterloo. Her sense of adventure is credited with bringing her to Billings, where she worked for various independent medical practices and St. Vincent Hospital, where she progressed from RN to floor supervisor to house supervisor, and finally into public relations. She was the first nurse to serve on the national board of the American Burn Association. Because she felt so strongly that her own life was blessed, Vera happily contributed her time and talent to many organizations, and was a longtime supporter of the Yellowstone Art Center and the Missoula Art Museum. She earned the Billings Community Service Award in 1990.

— From the *Billings Gazette*, June 23